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ENABLING THE LEGISLATURE OF THE TERRITORY OF HAWAII TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO ISSUE CERTAIN PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT BONDS

MAY 21 (legislative day, MAY 12), 1952.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. O'MAHONEY, from the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 4802]

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4802) to enable the Legislature of the Territory of Hawaii to authorize the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of Honolulu to issue certain public improvement bonds, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and with the recommendation that the bill do pass.

The purpose of the bill is to authorize completion of a carefully planned program of redevelopment and construction of the park and playground facilities of the city and county of Honolulu. Five years of World War II in the Pacific left Honolulu's parks and playgrounds almost a total wreck. In many cases nothing remained but the land and trees. Large parks, during the war, had been converted into Army camps, antiaircraft stations, Signal Corps supply stations, evacuation centers, etc. Other areas of the public park held bomb shelters, pillboxes, supply storage, and transportation units. Barbed-wire entanglements honeycombed the beach parks of the area to resist invasion, and other beach areas were used for amphibious training.

The officials of Honolulu experienced great difficulty at the close of the war in obtaining labor to do the desired improvement work, due to the employment of thousands of persons by the United States military branches. A reconstruction program was launched about the middle of 1948, and the board of supervisors now wish to go forward with their plans.

No expenditure of Federal funds is required. Congressional approval of this bond issue is necessary since the amount involved would exceed the debt limitation of 5 percent prescribed by section 55 of the Hawaiian Organic Act.

The favorable report of the Interior Department to the chairman of the House Committee on Public Lands is hereinbelow set forth in full and made a part of this report.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D. C., December 5, 1951.

Hon. JOHN R. MURDOCK,
Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR MR. MURDOCK: Further reference is made to your request for the Department's views on H. R. 4802, a bill to enable the Legislature of the Territory of Hawaii to authorize the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of Honolulu to issue certain public improvement bonds.

I recommend that this bill be enacted.

H. R. 4802 would ratify and confirm Act 255 of the Session Laws of Hawaii, 1951, authorizing the City and County of Honolulu, a municipal corporation of the Territory of Hawaii, to issue general-obligation bonds in the sum of $1,600,000 for the acquisition, construction, and improvement of public parks and playgrounds in the City and County of Honolulu. Congressional approval is required since such an amount of bonds, if included in the outstanding indebtedness of the city and county, would exceed the debt limitation of 5 percent of the assessed valuation of property in the City and County of Honolulu prescribed by section 55 of the Organic Act of Hawaii (48 U. S. C., 1946 ed., sec. 562). Enactment of this legislation is required in order to enable the City and County of Honolulu to meet the needs of an expanding population for additional park, playground, and recreational areas.

The Legislature of Hawaii by joint resolution has requested enactment of legislation similar to H. R. 4802.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that there is no objection to the submission of this report.

Sincerely yours,

MASTIN G. WHITE,
Acting Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

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